



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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| Applicant(s): | Friddle, <i>et al.</i> | Group Art Unit: 1652 |
| Application No.: | 09/965,631 | Examiner: N. T. Nashed |
| Filed: | 09/27/01 | |
| Title: Novel Human Proteases and Polynucleotides Encoding the Same | | Atty. Docket No.: LEX-0241-USA |

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION
DATED FEBRUARY 5, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313

Sir:

The Applicants acknowledge the receipt of the Final Office Action ("the Action") mailed on February 5, 2004 (Paper No. 020204), which has been carefully reviewed and studied. The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter the following amendment. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the following amendment and remarks. In order to facilitate the Examiner's evaluation of the application, Applicants have attempted to address the objections and rejections in the same order in which they were originally raised.

A Petition for an Extension of Time of two months to and including July 5, 2004, which falls on a Federal Holiday and is therefore extended to July 6, 2004, and authorization to deduct the fee as required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a)(1) from Applicants' representatives Deposit Account are included. The response is thus timely filed. Applicants believe no fees in addition to the fee for the extension of time are due in connection with this response. However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0892.

AMENDMENTS

Please amend the abstract to read as follows.

ABSTRACT

Novel human polynucleotide and polypeptide sequences are disclosed that encode zinc metalloproteases of the ADAMTS family that can be used in therapeutic, diagnostic, and pharmacogenomic applications.